

Unapproved Minutes Newbury REDInet Meeting January 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 PM

Board members Attending : Claude Phipps, Liane Allen, Nate Dudenhoeffer, Ken Rower, Brad Vietje, Chip Conquest, Edward Childs, Lenice Cicchini
Guests attending: Rick Hausman

Minutes from the December 27, 2018 meeting were approved.

Claude reported that we have \$ 3,115.76 in our account. As Dan has resigned from the position of treasurer, and as we have no one at this time to fill the position, Claude will assume the responsibilities of the office, and Lenice will act as a co-signer on the account.

Brad reported that both the Annual report and the Annual meeting plans and agenda have been posted on the website. Brad will also post the information on Front Page Forum and on the List Serve.

Chip suggested that we make a donation to the Space on Main. A discussion followed. Nate moved that we approve a one time donation of \$ 250.00, with the funds coming from our account. The motion was seconded by Ed, and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate and Ed will attend the meeting with Washington Electric Coop on January 24, 2019.

Chip will contact Brian Otley of Green Mountain Power to discuss a date and time for a meeting with him.

Nate Summarized the January 17, 2019 meeting with Jeff Austin from Consolidated by saying that while the meeting began with Jeff discussing the obstacles to a public/private merger, specifically difficulties that Consolidated faced in Dover regarding the use of tax advantaged money, the participants from REDInet (Nate, Claude, and Rick) proposed alternative approaches to address Jeff's concerns, and the meeting had an overall positive outcome. Rick noted that the issue of demarcation occupied a large part of the discussion. Nate stated that his preference is for the demarcation point to be located at the central office, the result being that REDInet owns the fiber, and contracts with Consolidated technicians. Rick noted that at the end of the meeting Jeff mentioned that the project would likely total \$5,000,000.00, and that Consolidated might contribute \$1,000,000.00 toward the cost.

In discussing Jeff Austin's follow-up email, Nate stated his concern that discussions of an engineering study at this time are premature, and could have the effect of diverting the focus of the conversation with Consolidated away from the structural concerns. He also recommended we have a contact person for communications with Jeff Austin, and Chip agreed to be that contact person.

Claude reported having contact with Crystal Pearson the business loan officer at Wells River Savings Bank concerning financing, and that while our loan amount will likely exceed WRSB's lend-

ing cap, they are willing to work with us in putting together a financial package. Claude also reported that he heard from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and we are likely to learn about the results of the ThinkVermont grant by mid to late January, 2019.

Ed has completed a report in response to the VT. Telecommunications Plan, and will send the report to Clay Purvis.

Liane suggested that the agenda include a space for discussing future concerns. Claude will add this as an agenda item. Rick recommended considering universality and affordability in these discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM. The next meeting will be held in the Newbury Elementary School cafeteria on January 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Submitted by Lenice Cicchini January 16, 2019